

WE CLAIM:

1. An article of manufacture, comprising:
a substrate having a surface; and
a cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating applied to said surface.
2. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating contains cobalt in the range of about 80 to 90 weight percent.
3. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating contains phosphorous in the range of about 10 to 15 weight percent.
4. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating contains a maximum of about 5 weight percent boron.
5. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating is applied to non line-of-sight areas of said surface.
6. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating is ductile.
7. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating is free of micro cracks.
8. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating provides good surface adhesion.

9. An article of manufacture, comprising:
a substrate having a surface; and
a cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating applied to said surface;
wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating contains cobalt in
5 the range of about 80 to 90 weight percent, phosphorous in the range of about
10 to 15 weight percent, and a maximum of about 5 weight percent boron.

10. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein said substrate is selected from the group of nickel, cobalt, iron, steel, aluminum, zinc, palladium, platinum, copper, brass, chromium, tungsten, titanium, tin, silver carbon, graphite, and alloys thereof.

11. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein said substrate is selected from the group of ferrous alloys, nickel alloys, copper alloys, and aluminum alloys.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein said article of manufacture is a part of a commercial aircraft.

13. A plating bath, comprising:
a plating solution;
cobalt metal ions contained within said plating solution;
chloride ions contained within said plating solution;
5 phosphorous ions contained within said plating solution;
an oxidizing agent contained within said plating solution; and
a hardening agent contained within said plating solution.

14. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein said cobalt metal ions, said chloride ions, said phosphorous ions, said oxidizing agent, and said hardening agent form a cobalt-phosphorous plating solution.

15. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein the cobalt metal content of said plating solution is in the range of about 4.4 to 5.8 oz/gal.

16. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein a source of said cobalt metal ions includes cobalt sulfate and other cobalt salts.

17. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein cobalt chips submerged in said plating solution is the source of said cobalt metal ions.

18. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein cobalt balls submerged in said plating solution is the source of said cobalt metal ions.

19. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein a source of said chloride ions includes sodium chloride and other chloride compounds.

20. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein boron comprises said oxidizing agent.

21. The plating bath of claim 20, wherein perborate provides said boron.

22. The plating bath of claim 20, wherein boric acid and other boron compounds provide said boron.

23. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein phosphite comprises said hardening agent.

24. The plating bath of claim 23, wherein phosphorous acid provides said phosphite.

25. The plating bath of claim 23, wherein sodium phosphite and sodium hypophosphite provide said phosphite.

26. The plating bath of claim 13, wherein said plating solution contains phosphate.

27. The plating bath of claim 26, wherein said phosphate is selected from the group of phosphoric acid, cobalt phosphate, and sodium phosphate.

28. A cobalt-phosphorous plating solution, comprising:
cobalt sulfate ($\text{CoSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$) within a range of about 20 to 26 oz/gal;
sodium chloride (NaCl) within a range of about 2 to 3.5 oz/gal;
5 boron as perborate within a range of about 1.6 to 2.6 oz/gal;
phosphite as phosphorous acid (H_3PO_3) within a range of about 1.6 to 2.6 oz/gal; and
phosphate as phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4) within a range of about 7 to 9 oz/gal;
10 wherein said cobalt sulfate, said sodium chloride, said perborate, said phosphorous acid, and said phosphoric acid are combined in tanks.

29. The cobalt-phosphorous plating solution of claim 28, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution has a pH range of about 1 to 1.6.

30. The cobalt-phosphorous plating solution of claim 28, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution has a pH range of about 0 to 2.

31. The cobalt-phosphorous plating solution of claim 28, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution has a surface tension of about of 35 to 50

dyne/cm.

32. The cobalt-phosphorous plating solution of claim 28, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution has a temperature of about 110 to 170 F.

33. The cobalt-phosphorous plating solution of claim 28, wherein an anode and a cathode are submerged into said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution, and wherein said anode is a platinized metal anode, and wherein said cathode is an article of manufacture having a surface to be plated.

34. The cobalt-phosphorous plating solution of claim 33, wherein said anode comprises cobalt chips and cobalt balls.

35. The cobalt-phosphorous plating solution of claim 28, wherein a direct current is applied that generates a cathode current density in the range of about 60 to 288 Amps/f².

36. A process for plating, comprising the steps of:
providing a substrate having a surface;
cleaning and preparing said surface during a pretreatment process;
5 applying a cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating to said surface during a cobalt-phosphorous plating process; and
finishing said surface during a post treatment process.

37. The process for plating of claim 36, wherein said substrate has a catalytically active surface.

38. The process for plating of claim 36, wherein said pretreatment process comprises the steps of:

5 degreasing said surface;
 masking areas of said surface not to be plated;
 cleaning said surface using dry abrasive blast;
 alkaline cleaning said surface; and
 acid activating said surface.

39. The process for plating of claim 36, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous plating process comprises the steps of:
 providing a cobalt-phosphorous plating solution;
 providing an anode and submerging said anode into said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution;
5 submerging said surface into said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution;
 applying direct current; and
 plating said surface with said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating.

40. The process for plating of claim 36, wherein said post treatment process comprises the steps of:
 demasking said surface; and
 baking said surface having said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating
5 applied.

41. A process for plating an article of manufacture used in the aerospace industry, comprising the steps of:

providing a part of a commercial aircraft including a substrate having a surface to be plated;

5 degreasing said surface of said part;

masking areas of said surface not to be plated;

cleaning said surface using dry abrasive blast;

alkaline cleaning said surface;

acid activating said surface;

10 providing a cobalt-phosphorous plating solution, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution comprises:

cobalt sulfate ($\text{CoSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$) within a range of about 20 to 26 oz/gal;

15 sodium chloride (NaCl) within a range of about 2 to 3.5 oz/gal;

boron as perborate within a range of about 1.6 to 2.6 oz/gal;

phosphite as phosphorous acid (H_3PO_3) within a range of about 1.6 to 2.6 oz/gal; and

20 phosphate as phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4) within a range of about 7 to 9 oz/gal;

providing a platinized metal anode and submerging said anode into said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution;

25 submerging said part into said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution;

applying direct current that generates a cathode current density in the range of about 60 to 288 Amps/ ft^2 ;

plating said surface of said part with a cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating, wherein said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating comprises:

30 cobalt in the range of about 80 to 90 weight percent;

phosphorous in the range of about 10 to 15 weight percent;
and
a maximum of about 5 weight percent boron;
demasking said surface;
35 baking said part having said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating
applied within 8 hours of application of said coating; and
using said part having said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating in a
commercial aircraft.

42. The process for plating an article of manufacture used in the aerospace industry of claim 41, further comprises the step of providing tanks that hold said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution.

43. The process for plating an article of manufacture used in the aerospace industry of claim 41, further comprises the step of heating said cobalt-phosphorous plating solution to a temperature of about 130 to 140 F.

44. The process for plating an article of manufacture used in the aerospace industry of claim 41, further comprising the step of applying said cobalt-phosphorous-boron coating to said surface at a plating rate of about 0.001 to 0.005 inch/hr.